

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A dewatering system in a paper machine, the dewatering system comprising:

a dewatering fabric, including:

a woven permeable fabric; and

5 a polymeric layer having openings therethrough, said polymeric layer connected to said permeable fabric; and

a press apparatus applying pressure to a portion of said dewatering fabric;

an other fabric; and

a vacuum roll in at least partial contact with a side of said dewatering fabric, said

10 dewatering fabric carrying a web on one side thereof, a side of said other fabric contacting a side of the web, said press apparatus applying pressure to a portion of an other side of said other fabric; said press apparatus being a belt press.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said dewatering fabric further includes at least one batt layer needled to said permeable fabric and said polymeric layer, thereby connecting said permeable fabric and said polymeric layer.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said at least one batt layer includes a first batt layer and a second batt layer, said first batt layer adjacent said permeable fabric, said second batt layer adjacent said polymeric layer, said first batt layer and said second batt layer needled to said permeable fabric and said polymeric layer.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said polymeric layer is a flexible polyurethane.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said polymeric layer is a grid of polymeric material, said grid having a plurality of machine direction runs and a plurality of cross direction runs.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said dewatering fabric further includes a plurality of yarns combined with said grid of polymeric material, thereby forming a composite layer, at least one of said yarns internal to each of a corresponding one of said plurality of machine direction runs.

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7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said dewatering fabric further includes at least one batt layer needled to said permeable fabric and said composite layer, thereby connecting said permeable fabric and said composite layer.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said polymeric layer is connected to said permeable fabric by at least one of laminating, melting, re-melting and an adhesive.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said polymeric layer includes a plurality of yarns within said polymeric layer.

10- 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 143, wherein said press includes an extended nip press belt in contact with said portion of said other side of said other fabric.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said extended nip press belt includes a plurality of grooves.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said extended nip belt additionally includes a plurality of holes drilled therethrough, said plurality of holes in fluid communication with at least one corresponding groove.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 140, wherein said vacuum roll has a vacuum zone by which air is drawn through said other fabric, said web and said dewatering fabric.

19-49. (Cancelled)